GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1072
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2007
NATIONAL FAMILY HEALTH SURVEY
Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of reports, studies and surveys including the National Family Health Surveys (NFHS-3) and the Focus on Children Under Six (FOCUS) have indicated a noticeable decline in the qualitative aspects of the ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services);

(b) if so, drawbacks have been indicated therein; and

(c) the steps taken to make the programme effective?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a)&(b) As per the findings of NFHS- III performance of States/UTs in reducing malnutrition amongst children varies considerably. While there has been significant reduction in prevalence of malnutrition amongst children below 3 years in some states, in many others, the reduction has been far from satisfactory.

FOCUS Survey conducted in some of the States pointed out wide variations in effectiveness of the ICDS between the States.

(c) Following steps have been taken to increase the effectiveness of the delivery of services under ICDS:-

i) Expansion of the ICDS Scheme to 466 ICDS Projects and 1.88 lakh Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) under 1st phase of expansion.
ii) Further expansion of ICDS Scheme to 173 Projects, 107274 AWCs and 25961 Mini AWCs.
iii) Doubling of financial norms for supplementary nutrition from Re.1/- to Rs. 2/- per beneficiary per day.
iv) Sharing of 50% cost of supplementary nutrition with the States/UTs.
v) Constant emphasis on States/UTs to ensure regular supply of supplementary nutrition as per schematic norms; and ensure delivery of other services.
vi) To strengthen the existing monitoring and supervision mechanism for ICDS. Central Monitoring Unit (CMU) has been set up at National institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD), which would monitor the Scheme through independent professional organization/ institution in each State/UT.
vii) A National level Monitoring Committee has been set up under the Chairpersonship of MOS (M/o Women & Child Development) to oversee the entire functioning of ICDS Scheme.